

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

I. Introduction

The City of Seattle is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to have a detailed Citizen Participation Plan that contains the City's policies and procedures for public involvement in the Consolidated Plan process and the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) money.

The community involvement process has three main objectives:

- To determine how well our housing, economic and human development funding is meeting the needs of the community
- To determine what other types of resources and services are needed in the future
- To help develop priorities

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The City will provide community members with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the Citizen Participation Plan and on substantial amendments to the Participation Plan. The City will announce the availability of the Citizen Participation Plan in the Seattle Times and make copies available at libraries and Neighborhood Service Centers.

The Citizen Participation Plan encourages public participation by:

- Facilitating involvement of residents of public and assisted housing and of low- and moderate-income people, especially those living in neighborhoods and areas where CDBG, HOPWA, ESG and HOME grants might be spent.
- Holding public hearings at all stages of the funding process. Hearings must give residents a chance to state community needs, review the proposed uses of funds, and comment on the past uses of these funds.
- Taking whatever actions are appropriate to encourage involvement from people of color, people who do not speak English, and people with disabilities.



The Role of Low-Income People

HUD declares that the primary purpose of the programs covered by this Citizen Participation Plan is to improve communities by providing: decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities -- all principally for low- and moderate-income people. The amount of federal CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA money Seattle gets each year is heavily

based upon the severity of poverty, substandard housing conditions, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Hence, it is necessary that the Consolidated Planning process genuinely involve low-income residents who experience these conditions. Meaningful participation from low-income people must take place at all stages of the process, including: identifying needs; setting priorities among these needs, deciding how much money should be allocated to each high-priority need, and suggesting the types of programs to meet high-priority needs; overseeing the way in which programs are carried out; and, commenting on program performance.

The Various Stages of the Consolidated Plan Process

The policies and procedures in this Citizen Participation Plan relate to several stages of action mentioned in law or regulation. In general, these stages or events include:

1. Identification of housing and community development needs.
2. Preparation of a draft plan for use of funds for the upcoming year called the Proposed Annual Action Plan or a new Consolidated Plan. The final Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan are adopted by the City Council.
3. On occasion during the year, it might be necessary to change how the money already budgeted in an Annual Action Plan will be used, or to change the priorities established in the Consolidated Plan. In that case, a Substantial Amendment will be proposed, considered, and acted upon.
4. After a complete program year, an Annual Performance Report must be drafted for public review and comment and then sent to HUD.

The Program Year

The "program year" chosen by Seattle is **January through December**.

II. Citizen Comment Overview

The City urges community members to identify needs and share their housing and community development ideas. All comments and suggestions regarding the Citizen Participation Plan, Consolidated Plan, Annual Performance Report, and Section 108 Loan Guarantee Projects are welcome.

- ◆ Community members may comment on the **Citizen Participation Plan** for a period of **fifteen (15)** days from the date of the publication of notice announcing its availability by writing to "Citizen Participation Plan Comments," City of Seattle Human Services Department, 618 Second Avenue, 6th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104.
- ◆ Community members may comment on the **Consolidated Plan, and where applicable substantial amendment(s)** to these documents for a period of **thirty (30)** days from the date of the publication of notice announcing its availability by writing to "Consolidated Plan

Comments,” City of Seattle Human Services Department, 618 Second Avenue, 6th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104.

- ◆ Community members may comment on the **Annual Performance Report** for a period of **fifteen (15)** days from the date of the publication of notice announcing its availability by writing to “Annual Performance Report Comments,” City of Seattle Human Services Department, 618 Second Avenue, 13th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104.
- ◆ The Citizen Participation Plan, Consolidated Plan and Annual Performance Report will be made available online on the City of Seattle Department of Human Services website.
- ◆ Persons with hearing impairments may call **(206) 684-0274**.
- ◆ Non-English speaking community members and sight-impaired persons may call **(206) 386-1048** to make arrangements for translated materials and recordings.

III. Public Notice

Public notice shall be provided once certain documents are available, such as the Proposed Annual Action Plan or Consolidated Plan, any proposed and final Substantial Amendment to the Action Plan or Consolidated Plan, and the Annual Performance Report. In addition, public notice shall be provided of all public hearings and all public meetings relating to the use of funds or planning process covered by this Citizen Participation Plan. Public notice shall be provided with enough lead-time for residents to take informed action. The amount of lead-time will depend upon the event.

When will Notices of Public Hearings be Published?



Notice of all public hearings will be published in non-legal sections of newspapers **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of the hearings.

Where will Notices be Published?



The City shall publish public notices in the Daily Journal of Commerce and in the non-legal sections of community newspapers when possible.



To encourage involvement by people of color, people who do not speak English, and persons with disabilities, public notice will also be provided through flyers or letters to approximately 700 neighborhood organizations, public housing resident groups, religious organizations, and non-profit agencies providing services to lower-income people through mailing lists maintained by the City of Seattle Human Services Department and the Office of Housing. The contents will include the date, time, location and purpose of the meeting or hearing or a summary of the content of the newly available document. In addition, a public notice will be sent to any person or organization requesting to be on a mailing list.



Public notices will also be published online when possible.

Public Access to Records and Information

Seattle will provide the public with reasonable and timely access to the data or content of the Consolidated Plan, as well as the proposed, actual, and past use of funds covered by this Citizen Participation Plan. The City requests that a person notify the City of the request to review documents at least 5 to 7 days in advance of when they want to review them, and when administratively reasonable, the City will attempt to make them available for review in less time.

Access to Meetings

Seattle will provide the public with reasonable and timely access to local meetings relating to the Consolidated Plan process.

Availability of Standard Documents to the Public

Standard documents include: the proposed and final Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan adopted by the City Council; proposed and final Substantial Amendments to either an Annual Action Plan or the Consolidated Plan, Annual Performance Reports, and the Citizen Participation Plan.

In the spirit of encouraging public participation, copies of standard documents will be provided to the public at no cost and within a minimum of five working days of a request. No more than two free copies will be provided to those organizations and individuals that request them. These materials will be available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, when requested.

IV. Public Hearings and Meetings

Public hearings are held in order to obtain the public's views. A minimum of two public hearings must be held. Hearings cover community needs, development of proposed activities and proposed uses of funds, and a review of program performance, i.e. to review what was accomplished with the use of funds spent during the past program year. To ensure that City Council members are able to hear the views of potential and actual beneficiaries of the funds, at least one of the public hearings will be sponsored by the City Council.

Access to Public Hearings

Public hearings will be scheduled at times convenient to most people who benefit or who might benefit from the use of funds and will be held at places accessible by bus. All public hearings will be held at locations accessible to people with disabilities. Provisions will be made for people with disabilities when requests are made at least five working days prior to a hearing. In addition, translators will be provided for people who do not speak English when requests are made at least five working days prior to a hearing.

Initial Public Hearing: The first public hearing on the Consolidated Plan will be held during the spring of each year. The first hearing will cover the following issues:

- ◆ A discussion of the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis.
 - ◆ A review of annual performance from the prior year that assesses how well Seattle met its overall goals and objectives.
 - ◆ A discussion of what programs or activities should be considered in the upcoming year.
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Second Public Hearing: The second public hearing(s) each year will be held in July. Community members will be provided the opportunity to review and to comment on the draft Consolidated Plan.

Stages in the Process

At least one public hearing will be held each year to obtain the views and opinions about housing and community development needs and the priority of those needs from potential and actual beneficiaries of the funds. In order to encourage public involvement, focus groups and small group meetings will be held prior to the first public hearing to help determine the specific needs and priorities identified by low- and moderate-income people. There will be a considerable effort to engage communities of color and marginalized communities. The meetings will be completed **thirty (30) days** before a draft Plan is published for comment so that the needs identified can be considered by the City and addressed in the draft Annual Action Plan/Consolidated Plan.

The second public hearing will be conducted by City Council at least **fifteen (15)** days after the Proposed Annual Action Plan/Consolidated Plan is available to the public. In addition, this public hearing will be held so that there is at least another **thirty (30)** days before a Final Annual Action Plan/Consolidated Plan is approved by the City Council so that the elected officials can consider the public's comments from the public hearing.

In preparing a final Annual Action Plan, careful consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public, whether given as oral testimony at the public hearing or submitted in writing during the review and comment period. The final Annual Action Plan/Consolidated Plan will have a section that presents all comments, plus explanations of the City's response.

Annual Performance Report

Every year, Seattle must send HUD an Annual Performance Report within 90 days after the close of the program year. In general, the Annual Performance Report must describe how funds were actually used and the extent to which these funds were used for activities that benefited low- and moderate-income people.

The City will provide public notice that an Annual Performance Report is available so that residents will have an opportunity to review it and comment on it. The following procedures apply specifically for Annual Performance Reports:

1. There will be a **fifteen (15)-day** comment period once the Annual Performance Report is made available to the public prior to submitting the report to HUD.
2. Copies of the Annual Performance Report will be available at libraries and Neighborhood Centers.

In preparing the Annual Performance Report for submission to HUD, consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public. The Annual Performance Report that is submitted to HUD will have a section that summarizes all citizen comments or views in addition to explanations why any comments were not accepted.

Technical Assistance

City staff will work with organizations and individuals representative of low- and moderate-income people who are interested in developing and submitting a proposal to obtain funding for an activity under any of the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan. The level and type of assistance will be determined by the City, but does not include the provision of funds to the group.

V. Substantial Amendments

The City of Seattle must specify the criteria it will use for determining what changes in the planned or actual activities of the Consolidated Plan constitute a substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan. The following describes those criteria and the procedures for citizen notification and comment on such proposed substantial amendments prior to the implementation of such amendments.

Criteria

Changes in the City of Seattle's Consolidated Plan that constitute substantial amendments include only the following:

- A change in the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another; and
- Any changes in excess of \$50,000 in the amount allocated to any project or activity as shown in the Proposed Annual Action Plan (or in any allocation list subsequently adopted by the City Council).

Procedure

Prior to adoption of any substantial amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan, the City shall publish in the Daily Journal of Commerce, a "Notice of Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan," which will identify the activities involved and the nature of the substantial amendment to be implemented. The notice will advise citizens that they have a period of **thirty (30)** days to seek additional information or to comment on the change by writing to the address below.

Before adopting a proposed substantial amendment, the City shall consider the comments received in writing and oral comments at public hearings and make modifications to the proposed substantial amendment where appropriate. All substantial amendments shall be implemented only after the City Council has adopted the substantial amendment by resolution or ordinance. Amendments to the Consolidated Plan that are not substantial may be submitted for City Council approval at the discretion of the Human Services Department Director. The final adopted substantial amendment shall be made available to the public and a copy of the amendment shall be forwarded to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in the form of an amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan. A summary of the comments or views received, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefor, shall be attached to the substantial amendment and submitted to HUD.

Comments on Substantial Amendments to the Consolidated Plan may be directed to:

City of Seattle CDBG Administrator
City of Seattle Human Services Department
618 Second Avenue, 13th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Complaint Procedures

Written complaints from the public about the Consolidated Plan, amendments or the performance report will receive a meaningful, written reply within **fifteen (15)** working days. The public may write to:

“Con Plan Report Complaints”
CDBG Administration Office
City of Seattle Human Services Department
618 Second Ave., 13th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Changing the Citizen Participation Plan

Substantial amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan can be made only after the public has been notified of intent to modify it, and only after the public has had a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on proposed substantial change. Substantial amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan must be adopted by City Council.

VI. Section 108 Loan Guarantee Projects, Citizen Participation Plan

Technical Assistance

The City will provide technical assistance to groups who are developing proposals that may benefit from and be eligible for Section 108 Loan Guarantee Fund assistance. The City will provide assistance through the Office of Economic Development or through a contracted assistance provider. Technical assistance will include an initial review of the proposed project and a financial and regulatory feasibility assessment. The level and type of assistance will be determined at the discretion of the Office of Economic Development.

Public Hearings

Two public hearings will be held for the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and an additional two public hearings will be held for each Section 108 Loan Guarantee application.

Two public hearings will be held for the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program for the purposes of obtaining the views of citizens and for formulating or responding to proposals and questions. The first hearing will be held in the spring in combination with the initial public hearing for the

Consolidated Plan. The second public hearing will be held in July in conjunction with the second public hearing for the Consolidated Plan. Both hearings will address community development and housing needs, development of proposed activities (proposed Section 108 loans) and review of program performance. At the second hearing community members will be able to review and comment on the draft Consolidated Plan, which will include a description of the Section 108 program.

Two public hearings will be held for each Section 108 Loan Guarantee application. All Section 108 Loan Guarantee applications must be approved by the City Council. The public hearing for each Section 108 Loan Guarantee application will be held in conjunction with a Council Committee meeting/briefing regarding a Resolution that authorizes the application to be submitted to HUD. Based on input from the public and the Council Committee regarding the proposed application, the City will consider comments from the public hearing and modify the application if appropriate. The second public hearing will be held in conjunction with the City Council Committee that will vote on the Ordinance authorizing the contractual agreements to implement the loan proposal (after HUD's approval of the City's Section 108 Loan Guarantee application.)

For the Consolidated Plan hearings and for the Section 108 Loan Guarantee application hearings, the City will provide the appropriate accommodations if the project affects non-English speaking persons. Translators will be provided for people who do not speak English when requests are made at least five working days prior to a hearing. For public hearings specific to an application, the City will work with applicable community based development organizations to conduct outreach to non-English speaking persons. In addition, community members can call (206) 233-3885 to make arrangements for translated materials and recordings. The public announcement will also indicate services that are accessible for physically disabled individuals (print and communication access will be provided upon request).

Location of Hearings

The Section 108 Loan Guarantee application hearings will be held at the City of Seattle's Council Chambers. Every attempt will be made to schedule these hearings during evening hours. For public hearings the City will provide contact information that includes a phone number, address and an e-mail address for citizens that wish to provide additional feedback or for citizens who cannot attend the public hearing.

Notices of Public Hearings

Notices of Section 108 Loan Guarantee application public hearings will be published in the Daily Journal of Commerce and any applicable local or ethnic newspapers **fifteen (15)** days in advance of the hearing.

All notices will include the amount of guaranteed loan funds expected to be made available for the coming year (*including program income anticipated to be generated by the activities carried out with guaranteed loan funds*) and the amounts proposed to be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

All notices for program applications will include:

- a description of the proposed activity, the amount of the guaranteed loan, and any program income to be generated;

- a citation of the National Objective (*benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blight or urgent need*) and the activity eligibility (e.g., area benefit, housing, jobs, limited clientele, etc); and whether the activity will result in displacement. If the project displaces individuals, then the public hearing notice will either detail the City's displacement plans or provide information on how to access the displacement plan.

If substantial changes are to be made to the original 108 Loan application, a public notice of the hearing/application will describe the substantial changes that are being proposed. A substantial change to the Section 108 Loan Guarantee application is defined as any change to the borrower, loan amount, project activity, project location, fees, term and security.

Availability of Application

A proposed application and supporting documents will be made available to the public two weeks prior to the public hearing (Council Committee meeting) through either a direct request for information from the Office of Economic Development or through the City of Seattle's website, which will be enumerated in the public notice. In addition, copies of the application will be available at the list of libraries and neighborhood service centers listed on the first page of this Plan. A copy of the final application, as submitted to HUD, will be available to the public by request at the City of Seattle Office of Economic Development.

Grievances and Complaints

The Office of Economic Development will respond to any written citizen grievances or complaints within **fifteen (15)** days of receipt of such notice, where practicable. In all public notices and during the public hearings, the City will make available contact information for citizens who wish to express any grievances or complaints regarding the project.

Encouragement of Citizen Participation

The City encourages citizen participation, particularly by low- and moderate-income persons, through the means articulated under "Encouraging Citizen Participation" as found elsewhere in this Plan. In addition, the City will encourage citizen participation by using the City's network of community-based development organizations, which represent many of the geographic areas in which Section 108 projects are located.

VII. Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance

Seattle will minimize displacement of families and individuals from their homes and neighborhoods as a result of projects discussed in the Consolidated Plan and projects that are funded through Section 108 Loan Guarantee assistance. For those projects that receive funds from CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), HOME (Home Investments Partnerships Program), UDAG (Urban Development Action Grant) or a Section 108 Loan Guarantee (funds awarded under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974) or funding from any program income that may accrue from these programs, the City has adopted a Residential Antidisplacement Plan and Relocation Assistance Policy that applies to such projects and that specifies the levels of relocation assistance available. (See Ordinance 119163). For projects included in the Consolidated Plan that do not receive funds from CDBG, HOME, UDAG or Section 108 Loan Guarantee funds, the City has other ordinances in place that may apply and that may require relocation assistance for any persons displaced as a result of certain projects. For any projects that involve City-funded acquisition of property that may also include state or federal funds, SMC chapter 20.84, which provides for relocation assistance in certain instances, applies and specifies relocation assistance available. For projects that do not involve state or federal assistance that involve demolition, change of use, substantial rehabilitation, or removal of subsidized housing restrictions that may result in displacement, SMC chapter 22.210 applies and provides for relocation assistance to low-income renter households. For projects that may involve displacement of renters from residential rental projects converting to condominiums, SMC chapter 22.903 applies and provides for relocation assistance to such persons.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Community Facilities

Janice Yee, Denise Louie Education Center

I am very concerned about the lack of financial commitment to Community Facilities. In 2002, six applicants received \$1.38 million for community facilities. In 2003, a smaller number will receive \$700,000. In 2004, the Consolidated Plan calls for only \$413,988.

This is alarming and inconsistent with the findings I've read in the 2004 update. The 2004 update states the following:

- Since 1990, the demand for community facilities financing has outstripped available resources by a ratio of 2.5:1.
- Capital funding for community non-profit organizations is limited. Many agencies, and even other funders, look to City Community Facilities funds as a lead funder to support critical projects. Requests for City Community Facilities funding is generally two to three times higher than available resources.
- The increasing homeless population in Seattle is increasing the demand for basic services such as day and hygiene centers. Current facilities that provide these services are operating at capacity.
- A limited survey conducted in the spring of 2003 by City staff revealed that at least 43 social services agencies were working on plans for facilities improvements over the next several years. Half of those agencies also reported that they had hired professional assistance to help them with their plans. Also of the 43 agencies, 34 indicated that they will seek funds from local governments to assist in the cost of the improvements.

Denise Louie Education Center serves 181 low-income Head Start children in South Seattle. We have used Community Facilities Funding as a resource three times in the past to create a new center in Rainier Beach at the Lake Washington Apartments and improve an unsafe space in the Mt. Baker Apartments. Planning funds from the City to use Environmental Works helped in our site selection and application for a major renovation project we will be implementing later this year. This funding cycle, we applied for \$300,000 towards a \$1 million project to renovate a space 2 miles north of our current site on Beacon Hill. This project will replace four classrooms, a playground, and offices for family service staff and teachers and is being necessitated by a forced-move situation.

Without the Community Facilities Loan Program, our first two projects would not have been possible. Without the support and funding of the Community Facilities Loan Program this year, 91 children may not have a facility to participate in Head Start when we lose our lease in August 2005. The future looks even more bleak for programs like ours that may now not have the opportunity and support of this fantastic program if the recommendations in this plan are implemented.

New rules were issued this year by Head Start limiting their participation to a maximum of 25% of the total project. Major funders in the Seattle area also limit their participation to between 5-10% of the total project. Given these limitations of funding, lack of available resources for facilities in Seattle, and the continued need to serve our neediest and most vulnerable populations, I urge you to reconsider your funding allocation recommendations and continue to place Community Facilities as a high priority, consistent with the findings in the Consolidated Plan.

I further urge you to consider forced moves and continuation of services to vulnerable populations, e.g., young children and immigrants and refugees and at the top of that list, as stated in the Consolidated Plan.

Community Facilities are necessary to provide the vital services to these vulnerable populations. This program meets a unique need that is not being met by other sources. Without the technical assistance, support and funding of the Community Facilities Loan Program, low-income children and families risk going un-served or receiving services in the cheap, old, unsafe, undesirable locations and facilities in Seattle.

Mark Okazaki, Neighborhood House

I have two specific comments related to CDBG funding for Community Facilities.

First, I want to encourage the City to increase the amount of CDBG funds for Community Facilities. The Draft 2004 Update earmarks only \$413,988 for this category. This is in stark contrast to funds released this year (\$700,000) and last year (\$1.38 million). *I would ask the City to consider increasing the 2004 allocation to \$1 million.*

In the past few years, Neighborhood House has benefited from these resources as we addressed our facilities needs in the Rainier Vista public housing community. Since the 1960's, we have operated a Head Start preschool and provided a range of social services to low-income residents of Rainier Vista in facilities provided by the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) at little- to no-cost. SHA is undertaking a total redevelopment of this community and will demolish all of the homes and buildings including the two facilities we currently occupy. SHA is not able to finance the construction of new facilities for non-profit agencies like Neighborhood House.

The City has helped us address this challenge by providing: \$50,000 for a facilities planning grant; free architectural assistance through Environmental Works to develop schematics for a new facility; and \$250,000 to purchase a parcel of land in the Rainier Vista community. We have raised \$1.5 million of the \$3 million needed to build this new community facility. Our success and progress is directly related to the City's generous investment.

Neighborhood House will face a similar challenge with the High Point public housing community. Like Rainier Vista, facilities we have used for Head Start preschool and social services will be torn down. We have no choice but to rebuild these facilities if we are to continue to provide Head Start and other services to the low-income children and families. We will look to the City once again for resources to help us build a new community facility.

I know of other non-profit organizations that are facing similar facilities challenges. The Denise Louie Education Center recently lost their lease on facilities used for their Head Start preschool. They have located a new facility but must do major renovations to convert this space into classrooms.

City CDBG funding is crucial to the preservation of programs and services offered by Neighborhood House, Denise Louie Education Center and other non-profit agencies that have funding for services (e.g., Head Start) but not facilities.

My second comment or recommendation is to add “forced-move” as a priority consideration in CDBG facilities funding. Under the Section entitled “2004 Strategies” I would suggest adding the following language:

In addition to the other criteria, priority consideration will be given to organizations that are facing a “forced-move.”

This will give weight to well-established organizations that have a stable source of funding for programs but, through no fault of their own, are forced to find new facilities. If organizations like Neighborhood House and Denise Louie are not able to secure facilities to operate Head Start programs, then the City could lose millions of federal dollars and the associated services to low-income children and their families.

I encourage you consider my recommendations as I know other non-profit organizations and the communities they serve will be impacted by this Plan.

Marlys Erickson, Pike Place Market Foundation

I am writing in response to the proposed cuts in CDBG funding levels for community facilities. I know the City has many, many difficult funding decisions to make these days, but I have a hard time seeing how cuts to programs assisting low-income individuals helps Seattle in the long run.

In the coming two years, we hope to address the tremendous space needs of three Pike Place Market programs - the Senior Center, the Clinic and the Child Care. As CDBG is a key piece of our funding plan for each project, cutting CDBG below the already-lower 2003 levels could have a significant impact on our plans.

As you may know, the Market's human service agencies provide groceries, hot meals, medical care, case management, housing assistance, mental health and addiction counseling, employment, and quality child care for nearly 10,000 low-income downtown residents each year. The demand for these services is growing and each agency's facility is bursting at the seams.

The CDBG program has quite a legacy the Market. In 1978, CDBG funded construction of the brand-new Clinic and Senior Center. Over the years, CDBG has also funded additions and renovations to both facilities. At the Market's Child Care & Preschool, we relied on CDBG funds to get the center started in 1982 and to renovate its sinking playground twenty years later. CDBG funds also helped make a permanent home for the Downtown Food Bank possible in the Market's parking garage.

As the director of the Market's community fund, I encourage you to not cut CDBG and help maintain its legacy in the Market.

Jan Gleason, Environmental Works

I am writing with grave concern about the distribution of funding cuts in the 2004 Update to the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, particularly in the reduction of funding to Environmental Works.

Environmental Works is a non-profit Community Design Center founded in 1970 for the express purpose of providing professional architectural and planning services to low income populations in the Puget Sound area. We have received an allocation of Community Development Block

Grant funds from the City of Seattle since their origination in 1974. These monies primarily support our efforts to provide predevelopment services (identification of project scope/program, preliminary design and cost estimating) to ensure essential social service providers in Seattle are sufficiently well-prepared to be competitive for the limited funding for their facilities. Historically the City of Seattle had annual RFPs to invite agencies to compete for facility funding. In recent years, as the amounts of funding decreased and the needs increased, most of these agencies have had to seek additional funding from other sources as well. Some of the agencies we have worked with through our allocation of CBDG funds, particularly on small projects (Country Doctor Community Health Clinic, Jose Marti Child Development Center, Primm Child Care Center, Good Shepard Center, Queen City Community Development), have sought all construction dollars from other sources.

Our allocation in 2002 was for \$236,457 or 3,638 hours of service. In 2003 our allocation was reduced to \$168,000 or 2,470 hours of service. By the end of June this year we had spent seventy-two percent of the allocation and were forced to severely limit the number of social service agencies receiving services, asking a number of them (Central Area Motivational Program, CampFire, Asian-Pacific Islander Safe House, West Seattle Service Center, University District Food Bank, Causeys Learning Center, Urban Rest Stop) to wait until 2004 to begin work. However, our proposed allocation for 2004 is only \$120,000 or 1,700 hours of service, which means that almost all of this allocation will be used for agencies which requested our services prior to June of 2003. No new agencies will be served.

The proposed allocation for construction dollars for agencies is \$414,000 in 2004, scheduled to fund only four facilities projects. Since this amount is so significantly smaller than in recent years (approximately \$1,300,000 in 2002) it would seem only logical that funding to provide the technical assistance that agencies require to be competitive for funding from sources should be increased rather than decreased.

The need for social services is rising as our economy continues to struggle. The dedicated social services and non-profit staff who provide these essential services deserve to have the technical assistance they need to compete for the funding from sources other than the City of Seattle.

Karen Sisson, Senior Center of West Seattle

In 2001, our Senior Center requested funds from the Human Services Dept., Community Facilities Program. We were awarded \$277,000.00 that year out of our \$350,000.00 request. The total amount of money that the office had to give away that year was \$1.3 million. We soon felt the pressure of the time line that we needed to operate under with these funds, so we gave the dollars back to allow us more time to fundraise, and we intended to apply again later.

This year this office only has \$700,000.00 to give away, \$350,000.00 of that being money that was again given back to them by projects that were unable to use allocated funds. With the guidelines that are in place to comply with using these funds, unless you can secure a larger dollar amount, it is not feasible to apply.

Considering this, I hope there is more money given to this program to help the many private non-profit agencies in the Seattle area. It was helped us in the past, (funding of the umbrella organization, Senior Services of Seattle/King Co.) and would love to be able to consider it in the future!

Public Hearing September 12, 2003

A public hearing was held on September 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Four community residents provided comments.

Rick Eberhardt, Partnership for Youth and Shalom Zone

Comment: I thank the City of Seattle for doing a good job of listening to the needs of homeless youth and young adults. The 2004 Consolidated Plan articulates well the priority needs for serving homeless youth and young adults in Seattle. I commend the City for being quick to respond to some of the emergent trends, like the increasing need for shelter beds for young adults ages 18-25. Shalom Zone, with City funding, now provides three nights of shelter per week for young adults, ages 18-25.

I am encouraged to read that mental health support services for homeless youth and young adults are highlighted in the 2004 Consolidated Plan. One of the most challenging barriers for youth and young adults trying to get off of Seattle's streets includes the overwhelming impact stemming from mental health issues. Advocates for homeless youth and young adults have been calling for increased mental health support services for years, but it consistently is one of the hardest services to get funded. It is my opinion that the on-going negative stigma of mental health as well as the prohibitive costs associated with providing quality mental health support are two reasons for why traditional funding sources are not quick to meet this demand. The City of Seattle is in a unique position to show leadership on this issue. If the City is willing to provide funding support for mental health services, then other funding sources will follow.

Jim Ferris, Housing Resources Group

Comment: The update of the Housing Element more accurately reflects the current housing needs in the three areas where HRG has and currently develops affordable housing (Downtown, Central and Southeast). Eliminating the SOA policies, which are prohibitive, with policies that incentivize housing is more appropriate. The comprehensive approach, incorporating and coordinating programs and resources from OED, HSD & OH have greater impact.

The Good Neighbor policy assists neighborhoods understand future affordable and special needs housing projects ahead of time and make for better projects as well as community support.

The importance of Emergency Assistance Program to prevent tenant eviction is also critical in this economy.

Christine Connolly, Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)

Comment: LIHI is supportive of the change in the geographic housing policies under the Special Objective Areas (SOAs) to the new Housing Investment Areas. The new policies address redlining issues of the past, identifies smaller census areas that make more sense, and include new areas such as Northgate and Bitterlake.

Cheryl Knox, Riverview Neighborhood Council Chairperson

Comment: The Riverview neighborhood has affordable housing. The concern, however, is for other needed services. Economic development is a big issue, particularly in terms of business and transportation. There is an environmental consciousness that needs to be maintained – the plan needs to allow that.